# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: ASBESTOS PRODUCTS : LIABILITY LITIGATION (No. VI) :

Consolidated Under MDL DOCKET NO. 875

FILED

FILE

Transferred from the Eastern District of Wisconsin,

Case No. 11-00061

ANDERSON

MAY 1 5 2012

V.

MICHAEL E. KUNZ, Clock
Dep. Clock

AW CHESTERTON COMPANY, et al. :

E.D. PA No. 2:11-cv-63482

#### SUGGESTION OF REMAND

AND NOW, this 15th day of May, 2012, it is hereby

ORDERED that, upon review of the above captioned case under MDL
875 Administrative Order no. 18 (01-md-875, doc. no. 6197), the

Court finds that, as to the above-captioned case:

- a.) Plaintiff has complied with MDL-875 Administrative Orders 12 and 12A (see the MDL 875 website's Administrative Orders page, at <a href="http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875d.asp">http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875d.asp</a>).
- b.) Parties have completed their obligations under the Rule16 order issued by the Court (see doc. no. 34).
- c.) All discovery has been completed.
- d.) The Court has adjudicated all outstanding motions, including dispositive motions. Particularly relevant rulings include:
  - The motion for summary judgment of defendant Proctor & Gamble Co. was denied (<u>see</u> doc. no. 344).

- e.) Rule 18 settlement discussions have been exhausted at this time as to the remaining viable defendants.
- f.) The Court finds that this case is prepared for trial without delay once on the transferor court's docket, subject to any remaining trial-related motions in limine (including Daubert challenges).
- g.) The remaining viable Defendants for trial are:
  - i. Owens-Illinois Inc.
  - ii. Proctor & Gamble Co.
- h.) Any demand for punitive damages is severed, and claims for punitive or exemplary damages are retained by the MDL-875 Court. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(b).

Accordingly, the Court SUGGESTS that the above-captioned case should be REMANDED to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for resolution of all matters pending within this case except punitive damages.

Alternatively, parties in the below-listed cases have seven

(7) days within which to consent to a trial before an Article III

The Court finds that the issue of punitive damages must be resolved at a future date with regard to the entire MDL-875 action, and therefore any claims for punitive or exemplary damages are hereby **SEVERED** from this case and retained by the MDL-875 Court in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. See In reCollins, 233 F.3d 809, 810 (3d Cir. 2000) ("It is responsible public policy to give priority to compensatory claims over exemplary punitive damage windfalls; this prudent conservation more than vindicates the Panel's decision to withhold punitive damage claims on remand."); see also In re Roberts, 178 F.3d 181 (3d Cir. 1999).

or Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In such an event, if consent is granted, a trial will be scheduled within sixty (60) days, on a date convenient to the parties in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Suggestion of Remand will be vacated.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

EDUARDO C. ROBRENO, J.

### SUGGESTION OF REMAND MEMORANDUM

Updated November 4, 2011

To: Transferor Judge

From: Judge Eduardo C. Robreno, Presiding Judicial Officer, MDL 875

Re: Asbestos case that has been transferred to your court

# Status of the case that has been transferred from the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

This case has been transferred back to the transferor court, from the MDL 875 Court in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Cases that are remanded to transferor courts are ordinarily ready for trial, pursuant to this Court's Administrative Order No. 18 (see <a href="http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875d.asp">http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875d.asp</a>).

Specific information regarding the history of a specific case while it was in the MDL 875 Court can be found in the Suggestion of Remand (above) that the MDL Court submitted to the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation in connection with its Order.

#### History of MDL 875, In re: Asbestos Products Liability Litigation

MDL 875, In re: Asbestos Products Liability Litigation, involves issues relating to personal injury damages caused by asbestos products. It currently consists of about 12,000 cases transferred by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, which has been transferring cases to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania since 1991. Each case typically consists of claims by multiple plaintiffs against multiple defendants. Since its inception, the litigation has involved more than 100,000 cases and up to ten million claims, including land-based and maritime claims ("MARDOC").

Beginning with Administrative Order No. 12 (see <a href="http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875d.asp">http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875d.asp</a>) in 2008, the Court initiated an aggressive, pro-active policy to facilitate the processing of cases. The policy involves giving newly transferred cases scheduling orders; setting cases for settlement conferences; having motion hearings; and remanding trial-ready cases to transferor courts, or, in the alternative, holding trials in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (if so requested by the parties).

## Resources available for transferor courts on the MDL 875 website

More information about the history of MDL 875 can be found on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's MDL 875 website at <a href="http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875a.asp">http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875a.asp</a>. Additionally, all Administrative Orders issued in this litigation (including current Orders and those no longer in effect) can be found at <a href="http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875d.asp">http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875d.asp</a>.

Also on the website is an Excel spreadsheet of all decisions issued by the Presiding Officer on

substantive and procedural matters since 2008 (see <a href="http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875n.asp">http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875n.asp</a>). This spreadsheet is updated regularly, and it can be sorted by jurisdiction, case caption, subject matter, party name, etc. It is also word searchable. The MDL-875 Court intends this spreadsheet to be a helpful resource for transferor courts addressing issues similar to those already addressed by the MDL-875 Court.

Other options available to assist the Transferor Court with legal research include searchable databases created by LexisNexis and Westlaw. Directions on how to access these databases can be found on <a href="http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875n.asp">http://www.paed.uscourts.gov/mdl875n.asp</a>.

#### Contact information for the MDL 875 Court

The MDL 875 Court is ready, willing and able to assist the transferor court with any matters relating to the transfer of the case or any substantive or procedural issues that may arise.

You may contact the Presiding Judicial Officer (Judge\_Eduardo\_Robreno@paed.uscourts.gov), the MDL 875 asbestos law clerk (Michele\_Ventura@paed.uscourts.gov or (267) 299-7422), or the Clerk's Office ((267) 299-7012) for further assistance.

#### Intercircuit Assignment Committee

The Intercircuit Assignment Committee of the Judicial Conference, under the leadership of Judge J. Frederick Motz of the District of Maryland, can assist in the identification and assignment of a senior judge from another District who is ready, willing and able to preside over the trial of this case. If appropriate, please contact Judge Motz at Judge\_J\_Frederick\_Motz@mdd.uscourts.gov or (410) 962-0782.